

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 231700 TOSEC 270372

21

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 /039 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:JBECKER:JM

APPROVED BY ARA:WHLUERS

ARA:BARNEBY

S:RAHERNE

S/S:SESTEINER

----- 085944

O 182120Z SEP 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 231700 TOSEC 270372

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM LUERS, ACTING

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR PN

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM: PANAMA SITUATION REPORT
MANAGUA, SAN JOSE FOR SHAUDEMAN

1. THE SITUATION IN PANAMA IS QUIET WITH POSSIBLE GOP-
SPONSORED MEETINGS WITH STUDENT GROUPS BEING THE ONLY
UNUSUAL ACTIVITY. THIS MAY INDICATE THAT HAVING DELIVERED
HIS ANTI-US BLAST TORRIJOS IS NOW FOCUSING HIS ATTENTION
ON RECONSOLIDATING HIS DOMESTIC POLITICAL SUPPORT. WE
WOULD EXPECT HIM, HOWEVER, TO CONTINUE THE PRESSURE ON US
TO RETURN TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE.

2. TODAY'S PRESS INCLUDES ARTICLES IN THE NEW YORK TIMES
AND WASHINGTON POST DESCRIBING IN FACTUAL TERMS THE
ECONOMIC CAUSES OF THE DEMONSTRATIONS AND THE SUBSTANCE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 231700 TOSEC 270372

OF THE GOP'S ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING US PLOTTING. THE

ARTICLES ALSO INCLUDE STATEMENTS ISSUED BY THE CANAL ZONE GOVERNMENT AND OUR EMBASSY DENYING ANY INTERFERENCE IN PANAMA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THE BINDER STORY, BASED ON PANAMA'S PURPORTED CHRONOLOGY OF A US "FLIP FLOP", ON THE NEGOTIATING SCHEDULE, PRESUMABLY WILL APPEAR IN THE SUNDAY TIMES. THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE INTEREST FROM PRESS TODAY IN THE STORY.

3. IT NOW APPEARS THAT ONLY ONE US CITIZEN, AN ARMY PFC WHO IS A FINANCE CLERK, WAS ARRESTED FOR ALLEGEDLY PARTICIPATING IN THE DEMONSTRATIONS. TWO OTHERS NAMED IN THE PANAMANIAN NOTE TO OUR EMBASSY ARE PANAMANIAN CITIZENS -- ONE EMPLOYED AT A PX FACILITY IN THE ZONE AND THE OTHER A STEP-SON OF A PANAMA CANAL COMPANY EMPLOYEE. THE STEP-SON IS NO LONGER RESIDENT IN THE ZONE AND HAS NO DIRECT AFFILIATION WITH THE ZONE OR THE US. IN SHORT, THE CHARGES THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS USING THESE INDIVIDUALS TO DESTABILIZE PANAMA ARE LUDICROUS. THE FEW OTHER AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL ARRESTED RECENTLY BY PANAMA FACE CHARGES TOTALLY UNRELATED TO THE DISTURBANCES AND THEY WERE NOT MENTIONED IN ANY OF THE PANAMANIAN CHARGES.

4. WE PLAN TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS OVER THE NEAR TERM TO MANAGE THIS SITUATION:

- EMBASSY PANAMA WILL BE SUBMITTING TO THE DEPARTMENT A DRAFT REPLY TO THE PANAMANIAN NOTE. OUR REPLY WILL BE DESIGNED TO CORRECT THE RECORD AND TO SHOW THAT THE PANAMANIAN CHARGES ARE UNFOUNDED.

- WE ARE PREPARING GUIDANCE FOR THE USE OF OUR POSTS IN LATIN AMERICA.

- WE WILL BE EXAMINING IN THE COMING WEEK WHAT OUR POSTURE ON A FUTURE NEGOTIATING SCHEDULE SHOULD BE. ROBINSON

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, POLITICAL STABILITY, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE231700
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JBECKER:JM
Enclosure: DC ADJUSTED PER BECKER/CHICHESTER TELCON
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760353-1145
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760944/aaaabmcq.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM: PANAMA SITUATION REPORT MANAGUA, SAN JOSE FOR SHAUDEMAN
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, PORS, PN, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: SECRETARY MANAGUA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006